

**Written Testimony of Chris Corcoran, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Children,  
February 21, 2013.**

Testimony in Support of:

**House Bill 6332, AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FIRE RETARDANTS IN  
CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS**

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Committee on Children,

My name is Chris Corcoran and I am a resident of West Hartford CT and a proud member of the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut (CSHC). I am also a project manager for a HUD healthy homes grant that deals with making homes safe and healthy by, among other things, getting rid of installing smoke detectors to prevent fires from taking lives. CSHC is a large coalition comprised of over fifty member organizations of health professionals, environmental justice advocates, labor groups, public health professionals, environmental experts, faith based groups, scientists and many individuals across Connecticut. CSHC is concerned about the growing body of research linking exposure to toxic chemicals with the rise in serious diseases. Toxic chemical exposure during critical windows of fetal development and to young infants and children is of particular concern.

Carcinogenic flame retardants have no place in children's products! Chlorinated Tris flame retardants, including TDCPP, TCEP and TCPP, are highly toxic chemicals added to the polyurethane foam of many products. Their presence is particularly worrisome in children's products. TDCPP was voluntarily removed from children's pajamas in the 1970's when it was found to be mutagenic, meaning that it causes changes to DNA in the cells which can lead to cancers of the kidneys, liver and testicles. It is also a hormone disruptor and a neurotoxin. TCEP has been associated with increased cancers of the kidney, thyroid and leukemia. TCPP has not been fully studied, but is structurally similar to TDCPP and TCEP.

TDCPP has been found in nursing pillows, changing mattresses, nap mats, and bassinets. I have one word for a company that would put these chemicals into products that our youngest, most vulnerable children are exposed to...repugnant! My concern is that the manufacturers that make these children's products, with a known carcinogen in them, will not stop because it is the right thing to do.

They will only stop when forced to do so. This is a sad commentary on that industry; however, we do in fact need to tell them to stop.

In the past, Connecticut has been the bold leader in protecting children from chemical like lead and BPA. Connecticut needs to be a leader again and pass legislation that bans the use of these dangerous chemicals (Chlorinated Tris flame retardants, including TDCPP, TCEP and TCPP). Our children deserve to be protected, especially when safer alternatives exist.

Thank you for this opportunity. I strongly urge this committee to support HB 6332.

Sincerely,

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